

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00502 220337Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 /106 W

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R 211040Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6939

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN 1147

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS MAPUTO 0502

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SPON, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS COVERAGE OF VANCE/ OWEN VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: MOZAMBIQUE'S TWO DAILY PAPERS GAVE STRAIGHT FORWARD AND GENERALLY POSITIVE COVERAGE TO THE DISCUSSIONS SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN HELD IN DAR ES SALAAM, BUT THEIR TRIPS TO PRETORIA AND SALISBURY WERE IGNORED BY THE MAPUTO PAPER AND BELITTLED BY NOTICIAS DE BEIRA. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTICIAS (MAPUTO) AND NOTICIAS DA BEIRA, BOTH GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED, GAVE PROMINENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO THE APRIL 15 16 DAR ES SALAAM TALKS, REPORTING AS A POSITIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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STEP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ACCEPTANCE OF AN ALL PARTIES MEETING. APRIL 17 NOTICIAS REPRINTED IN FULL THE COMMUNIQUE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DAR MEETINGS, AND EMPHASIZED THE "IMPORTANT PROGRESS" THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN SPITE OF OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES.

3. NOTICIAS QUOTED ROBERT MUHABE'S PRESS STATEMENTS

THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MUST HAVE A PREDONINANT PLACE IN THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND CONTROL THE ARMY AND HIS CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE. NOTICIAS REPORTER TERMED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S PROPOSALS AS "FUNDAMENTAL ALERATION" IN THE ANGLO AMERICAN PLAN AND SAID THE UK AND US AGREED TO STUDY THE PF POSITION. NOTICIAS DA BEIRA REPRINTED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME STORIES. CURIOOUS)6, NEITHER PAPER MENTIONED THAT MOZAMBIQUE WAS REPRESENTED AT THE TALKS.

4. AS VANCE AND OWEN PROCEEDED TO PRETORIA AND SALISBURY, NOTICIAS (MAPUTO) PUBLISHED ONLY A SUCCINCT WIRE SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR APRIL 18 AND NOTHING AT ALL APRIL 19 OR 20. NOTICIAS DE BEIRA WHICH HAS CONTINUED A SHRILL ANTI WESTERN LINE WHILE THE MAPUTO PAPER HAS APPEARED TO MODERATE ITS VIEW OF THE WEST DURING THE PAST YEAR, PUBLISHED DENUNCIATIONS OF THE US/UK POSITION APRIL 18 AND 19.

5. NOTICIAS DE BEIRA APRIL 18 UNDER THE HEADLINE" OWEN AND VANCE IN SALISBURY" DEVOTED ONE PARAGRAPH TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR MEETINGS AND TWO PARAGRAPHS TO THE "HOSTILE RECEPTION" BY SUPPORTERS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AND THE "EXTENSIVE COVERAGE" GIVEN THESE "REACTIONARIES" BY THE WESTERN PRESS. THE SAME ISSUE REPORTED NKOMO'S LUSAKA STATEMENT AS A "BITTER CRITICISM" OF THE UK/US UNCLASSIFIED

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PLAN TO IMPOSE A NEO COLONIAL SETTLEMENT ON ZIMBABWE AND PROTECT ECONOMIC INTERESTS UNDER A LARGE HEADLINE "WEST WANTS TO IMPOSE NEO COLONIAL PLAN" ON THE SAME PAGE WAS A STORY DATELINE NEW YORK STATING THAT THE NEW AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD AFRICA WAS IN NO WAY DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD AND SOUGHT ONLY TO PROTECT AMERICAN ECONOMIC STAKES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

6. APRIL 19 NOTICIAS DA BEIRA FEATURED A LUSAKA STORY WITH THE HEADLINE "OWEN VANCE MISSION A FAILURE FOR THE WEST" IT REPEATED NKOMO'S CRITICISMS AND ADDED THAT "SMITH AND HIS LACKEYS ENTIRELY REFUSED TO TAKE PART IN ANY CONFERENCE" AND REPORTED THE REFUSAL OF SOUTH AFRICA TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS TOWARD NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE. DE PREE

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